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Front Cover: Local German
Firefighters rescue a Soldier from a
"downed aircraft" during an Aircraft
Rescue Firefighting exercise July 13
in Muehlhausen. (Photo by Gerry
Arbios)

The Box Bulletin

James V. Matheson, Lt. Col., Commander, U.S. Army Garrison Hohenfels

Gerry Arbios, Public Affairs Officer

The USAG Grafenwoehr Commander has determined that the publication of this periodical is necessary in the transaction of the public business as required by law of the Department. Use of funds for publishing this publication has been approved by the USAG Grafenwoehr Commander in accordance with AR 25-30.

The Box Bulletin is published monthly for the community of the Joint Multinational Readiness Center. We invite your comments, questions, recommendations and articles for publication on matters that will assist and inform our readers. The deadline for the next issue for September 2006 is August 15.

Please direct your input to: Headquarters, US Army Garrison Hohenfels, ATTN: PAO, APO AE 09173; DSN 466-2398, Commercial 09472-83-2398, FAX 466-4794, email: USAGH.pao@cmtc.7atc.army.mil

Alpha Co., 1st MI is welcomed back



n July 21, the Alpha Co., 1st Military Battalion (Aerial Exploitation) was officially welcomed back to Hohenfels from their tour of Iraq.

During the ceremony, Lt. Col. Popovich, 1st MI Battalion, Wiesbaden, presented Family Readiness Group leaders with awards. The awards were presented to: Yvonne Berry, Terese Enghusen, Alexis Hoggat, Niesha Porter and Beth Weston. Both Popovich and Cpt. Richard E. Berry II, commander of Alpha Co., 1st MI, commended the spouses and families for their support during the deployment.

In March of 2002, V Corps received authority to stand up an RQ-5A Hunter, Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Company to operate in support of V Corps operations as part of the 205th Military Intelligence Brigade. The new A Company, 1st Military Intelligence Battalion stood up in Hohenfels in the summer of 2002 and active fielding of the personnel, facilities, and equipment began in December 2002.

In July 2003, A Company received its

first two Hunter air vehicles, and in August 2003, the company completed the first U.S. Army RQ-5A Hunter flight in Europe at Hohenfels. On October 7, 2003, A Company officially activated at Hohenfels.

In January of 2004, A Company deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. A Company provided over 3,500 hours of Reconnaissance, Intelligence, Surveillance, and Target Acquisition (RISTA) in support of Multi National Corps-Iraq (MNC-I). They convoyed over 2,000 miles in order to perform multiple split based operations. They redeployed to Germany in December 2004.

In November 2005, the company deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and provided over 2300 hours of Reconnaissance, Intelligence, Surveillance, and Target Acquisition (RISTA) in support of Multi National Corps-Iraq (MNC-I). A Company Redeployed to Germany in May 2006.

After the ceremony, the Soldiers and their families had a special meal at the Zone, and entertainment was provided by the one-man band *Ernie Everett*.

This month's Box Bulletin spotlights Spec. Alvin Morgan, S2 Section, 1-4 INF BN

organ came to Hohenfels in May 2002 straight from his Army Individual Training (Military Intelligence) in Fort Huachuca. He enjoys his work in S2, and was chosen as the JMTC Soldier of the Year for 2006. He is currently enrolled in Central Texas College and hopes to get a degree in general studies. Morgan is heading to a promotion board in September.

In his off-duty hours, he is a volunteer coach. He has coached a basketball team and is a certified coach for fall soccer. In addition to coaching kids, Morgan likes

video games and spending time with his family. When asked what he enjoys most

about Germany, he says he enjoys the slower pace of life in the local community.



Garrison Commander's Column

Tight race in the ICE League at the all-star break

nother exciting ICE league season (the way we track the customer service kudos and complaints you submit to us through customer comment cards and the on-line comment system URL: http://ice.disa.mil) enters this year's all-star break with an unprecedented 13 teams having a legitimate shot at taking home the championship trophy.

Currently, three teams are undefeated - the Official Mail Distribution Center, the School Liaison Office, and the Property Book Office. Unfortunately, injuries may be the deciding factor in the pennant race. In a scary moment repeated over and over on all the sports highlight shows, Randy Hughes, the ace of the Official Mail Distribution Center staff sustained a nasty paper cut. Hughes is back in the starting line up now, but one has to wonder about his confidence in quickly handling a manila folder after that incident. School Liaison Officer Michele Wolfe is putting off surgery on her strained ACL until after the season. Wolfe says, "Playing hurt is part of being a customer service professional." Sitting in third place is John Sherrick's undefeated PBO team which appears to be the only team in the top tier that has not been bitten by the injury bug. Sherrick credits his thorough off season conditioning program with allowing his team to play so hard day after day without a significant injury. "Two-a-day sessions of efficient stapling, filing while smiling, polite phone answering and precision forklift driving made our pre-season camp one of the toughest in recent memory, but look at how it is paying off now during the dog days of Summer," said Sherrick.

Teams in the middle of the pack have been active making trades and signing free agents in an effort to get back into the pennant race. The most significant moves include the Safety Office hiring of former Washington Nationals skipper Dan Voglesong and the Arts and Crafts Center free agent signing of "crafty" veteran Doreen Vandal. All of the teams would be wise not to lose sight of last year's champion, The Sunrise Lodge. They are lurking in 9th place and poised to make a strong stretch run after recovering from the "heated swimming pool" incident in April. So sit back, enjoy the great customer service, and be sure to follow the ICE League standings in the *Box*

Bulletin throughout the September race for the pennant. On October 1, we will crown the FY 2006 ICE League Champion.

V/R Lt. Col. James V. Matheson Garrison Commander



	Service Providers	otal Wins	otal Loses	% Win
1	Distro Center (Official Mail)	36	0	1.000
2	SL0	14	0	1.000
3	Property Book Office	11	0	1.000
4	In and Out Processing	182	2	0.989
5	Community Mail Room (CMR)	98	2	0.980
6	Transportation Motor Pool (TMP)	42	1	0.977
7	Chapel	477	18	0.964
8	Drivers Testing	100	4	0.962
9	Sunrise Lodge	131	7	0.949
10	ACS	190	11	0.945
11	Housing	91	7	0.929
12	Olympia Fitness Center & Post Gyr	70	7	0.909
13	Installation Technology Office (ITO	9	1	0.900
14	Vehicle Registration	17	2	0.895
15	Turnbull Library	42	5	0.894
16	Gyms (Post & Fitness)	32	- 4	0.889
17	Community Activity Center	21	3	0.875
18	CYS	101	15	0.871
19	The Zone (Club)	23	4	0.852
20	Dining Facility (USAG Hohenfels)	50	9	0.847
21	DPW Buildings & Grounds	5	1	0.833
22	Auto Craft Shop	29	7	0.806
23	Education Center	20	5	0.800
24	CDC	8	3	0.727
25	MWR Administrative Service	5	2	0.714
26	Commissary	5	3	0.625
27	Self Help	3	2	0.600
28	Personnel Action Center	4	3	0.571
29	38th PSB	4	4	0.500
30	Dental Clinic	3	8	0.273
31	Dining Facility (1.4 Infantry)	2	7	0.222
32	Medical Clinic	4	15	0.211
33	AAFES	15	68	0.181
34	USAG-H HQ	1	7	0.125
35	Arts and Craft Shop	- 1	13	0.071

New commander at the Health Clinic

n July 7, Lt. Col. Robert A. Smith took command of the USAMEDDAC
Hohenfels from Maj. Brian B. Cushing.
Smith comes to Hohenfels from
Mannheim where he most recently served as clinic commander of the USA Health
Clinic.

Smith was commissioned into the U.S. Army as a captain upon graduation from the University of New England College of Osteopathic Medicine in 1992. He completed his internship and residency

training in Pediatrics at Tripler Army Medical Center in Honolulu. He is a graduate of the AMEDD Officer Advance Course, Combat Casualty Course and the Humanitarian Assistance Course.

Cushing will continue his service to the U.S. Army at the Presidio of Monterey, Calif., for his next assignment.

Lt. Col. Robert A. Smith (at right) receives the guidon from Col. Dallas W. Homas, USAMEDDAC, Wuerzburg.



Training to save lives

Local firefighters and medical personnel train in exercise

Story and photos by Gerry Arbios

ach year, more than 500 Host
Nation firefighters and emergency
response personnel take part in training
exercises coordinated by our Airfield
Safety Manager Chance Clagett and USAG
Hohenfels Deputy Fire Chief Gert Fuchs.
The majority of the firefighters are from the
four surrounding counties of the JMRC.

These Host Nation personnel are volunteers and come from their daily jobs to learn and practice skills that will not only assist them, but also personnel from JMRC. The training is Aviation Rescue for Firefighters or ARFF for short. This is a great partnership forged between the Host Nation and the JMRC/USAG Hohenfels community, a definite win-win situation.

If an aircraft were to go down within the local community, local firefighters will be first on the scene of the incident. Upon notification of an accident to the JMRC/USAG Hohenfels, the on-station UH-60 MEDEVAC aircraft with firefighters and medics respond to assist with the local fire departments.

This July, Clagett and Fuchs coordinated the training with four communities, but due to inclement weather, only two could be carried out. The communities that held the training were Muehlhausen and Burglengenfeld. During the exercises, two typical scenarios were practiced and rehearsed. This particular training was the last phase of realistic training. Weeks before the host nation fire departments had conducted familiarization training on Hohenfels Army airfield in preparation for this final part of the exercise.

The firefighters learned how to approach a downed aircraft and conduct emergency shutdown procedures, as well as assisting the crash scene "injured." The UH-1 Huey conducted a simulated hard landing with a fire. The UH-60 Blackhawk conducted a simulated hard landing without a fire. With the UH-1, the local firefighters had to conduct a rapid crew extraction due to the simulated fire aboard the aircraft. The UH-60 gave the local firefighters an opportunity to extract the crew using a more thorough and



Airfield Safety Manager Chance Clagett (center background) and Dep. Fire Chief Gert Fuchs (right) monitor the aircraft rescue exercise, while in foreground, HN firefighters check out an injured Soldier. Below, emergency medical personnel examine one of the injured and HN firefighters transport an injured Soldier.

comprehensive extraction program based upon simulated injuries that occurred to the crew.

In Muehlhausen, not only were the firefighters present to get the injured out of the aircraft and carry them to safety, but a whole array of local medical personnel from the Bavarian Red Cross and other medical facilities were on hand to triage each patient in preparation of transportation to local hospitals. The use of both aircraft offered the first responders better variation of training to learn the differences between today's advanced aircraft, the UH-60 and yesterday's basic aircraft, the UH-1.

Through realistic scenarios, the training will help preserve lives, equipment and resources in the event of a serious aviation mishap within the four counties surrounding the Joint Multinational Readiness Center. In Muehlhausen, KBI Herbert Ubrich brought in over 160 volunteer first responders including firefighters, Bavarian Red Cross and the Crisis Intervention Team with emergency equipment to take part in the Aviation Rescue Firefighting.

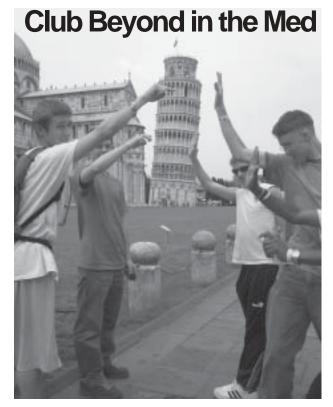
The training, which reflects the close cooperation with Host Nation officials and the U.S. Army, has been ongoing since 1996. For the many townspeople who came from Muehlhausen to watch the event, it was live drama at its best. For the medical personnel, it was a chance to increase their emergency response expertise. Clagett was supported by a host of installation staff to include Guenther Stoeckl, Fire Chief, Gert





Fuchs, Deputy Chief, F&ES Hohenfels, and the Falcon Team and the UH-60 MEDEVAC aircraft flew in from the 45th Med out of Katterbach.

Clagett said the cooperation from the Host Nation was great and adds, "The end state of this training is that it benefited everyone, both on and off the JMRC. In the event of serious aircraft accident/incident precious lives, equipment, and the environment can be saved."



By Chris Howard, Director, Club Beyond

magine jumping off a 20 foot cliff into the Mediterranean Ocean, eating pesto in the region it was invented, or sitting on the beach sharing stories while eating fresh coconuts.

Hohenfels youths experienced all this and more at the Club Beyond Beach Break 2006. On June 16, two leaders and one youth from Hohenfels boarded a bus and headed down to Camp Darby in Italy. They joined over 250 youths from 10 separate installations and attended the six day high school Beach Break. Upon arriving in Italy, the group toured the bustling streets of Pisa before heading to their final destination. at Camp Darby.

Every day began with a communal meal before heading off on a fun excursion. Our group visited the Aqua Village water park, the coastal villages of Cinque Terre, and spent several days at the American Beach in Tirrenia. In the evening, youths attended Club where they were led in music each night by the band *Starting Tuesday* and listened to a seminar series by Pat Cummings.

Following Club, the youths were entertained through nightly activities including skits, concerts, games, and extreme challenges. Afterwards, the members ended the evening in their tents with small group sessions. This was a

time for the youths to reflect upon the day and the talk they had just heard and process through exactly what they were feeling and learning with an adult leader. The high school youths returned from Beach Break feeling relaxed, renewed, and excited to return next year.

On June 24, two leaders and three youths from Hohenfels boarded a bus and headed back down to Camp Darby in Italy. They joined over 300 youths from 17 separate installations and attended the six day middle school Beach Break. The trip was a huge success for the Hohenfels youths. "This was a fantastic opportunity for me to invest time into the

lives of our youth," said Club Beyond intern Ashley Frerich. "I really enjoyed getting to know some of our youths

better and just having an opportunity to laugh and enjoy life," stated Club Beyond Community Director Chris Howard. "Our youths need to participate in more trips like these, where they have the opportunity, not only to play and have fun with peers, but also, to engage in deeper discussions about life as they begin the process of transitioning into adulthood."

The 2006 Beach Break youths and staff from Hohenfels included Ashley Frerich, Jordan Gaddy, Marcus Gaddy, Chris Howard, Rachel Millock and Alex Wilson.

Upcoming Club Beyond Events /Programs
European Catholic Youth Conference —

August 25-27, Cologne, Germany

Club Beyond Banquet — August 18, FLAYC, Bldg. 743

Middle School Service Project — September 1-4. Poland

H2O—An ecumenical youth group begins in fall semester, every Thursday, 5:30 p.m., FLAYC

The Mug Coffeehouse — A chance to socialize in a coffee-house atmosphere beginning in fall semester, every Wednesday, 5 p.m., FLAYC

Biergarten Mahlzeit opens



The former parking area behind the Bowling Center has been transformed into the Mahlzeit, a biergarten for the Hohenfels community. Modeled after typical Bavarian biergartin, the open-air facility accommodates smokers as well as non-smokers and will close for the winter months.

It is available for parties (reserve through the Bowling Center). On July 21, it was officially opened with a band from the town of Dietldorf.

The new patio area sports an awning that can be opened to protect guests from spring-summer-fall rains or provide shade on a sunny day. (*Photo by Caio Araujo-Roper*)

Quest for education



Story courtesy of Ed Center Staff and photo by Christina Wilson

he Army Continuing Education System provides students with a quality foundation for critical thinking, character building, and leadership skills necessary for lifelong living and learning. We believe that the educational experiences we offer Soldiers, DA civilians, and family members are unique and provide new and exciting ways of looking at the world.

Education is a stimulus that causes people to grow and with growth adapt to

positive change which they share in their personal and professional relationships and within the community.

On May 24, Lt. Col. James Matheson recognized the graduates of the USAG Hohenfels for the year 2005-2006. The degrees earned were eight associates, seven bachelors, seven master's level, and one PhD. He applauded their discipline and was in awe of the sacrifices they made to balance mission, personal lives, and work schedules to successfully reach the goal of a post secondary degree. Many people start the course, but it takes dedication to

stay the course and finish with a degree.

Our Army education center offers a myriad of opportunities to start a degree plan or continue with one started at another duty station or within the civilian sector. Whether you take traditional college classes or study "online," it is a perfect time to start your quest for a degree and be one of next year's graduates.

The following graduates were honored: **Daniels**, Kimberly, BS, Humanities, UMUC

Garcia, Rudolpho, AAS, mental Health Social Work, UMUC

Green, Christopher, MA, Human Relations OU

Janis, Thomas, AA, General Curriculum, UMUC

Odum, Jamie, MA, Education/Curriculum & Supervision, UOP

Prescott, Corrie, AA, General Curriculum, UMUC

Regester, Maria, PhD, Management Science, Walden University

Shell, Justin, MBA, UOP

Starks, Evelyn, AA, Business Management, UMUC

Storkson, Andrea, BS, Business Management, UMUC

Storkson, Joseph, BS, Business Management, UMUC

Turner, Robert, BS, Management Studies, UMUC

Whetstone, Beorn, BS Professional Aeronautics, Embry Riddle Aeronautical University

Whyte, Jamie, AA, General Studies, UMUC The following students received their degrees this year, but did not attend the ceremony:

Bridges, Jason, MA, Human Relations, OU Clemmons, Kathy, MA, Education/ Curriculum & Instruction, UOP

Crane, Michael, MA, Business and Security Management, Webster University

Dick, Norman, BS, Computer Science, UMUC

Hoffer, Timothy, BS, Professional Aeronautics, Embry Riddle

Hughes, George, MA, Human Relations, OU Murta, Joseph, AA, General Curriculum, UMUC

Hohenfels spouses honored

By Tracie West AFTB Program Manager

ave you noticed something new as you pull into the Burger King parking lot? Something different, but you can't quite put your finger on it? On July 13, the Hohenfels Army Family Team Building (AFTB) Program, planted a Maple tree at the corner of Gen. Patton Dr. and Lee Jones St. to honor the spouses of Hohenfels for their courage, strength and dedication to the U.S. Army, the Hohenfels community and to our Soldiers.

On the day of the tree planting, the Department of Public Works (DPW) began the process of moving the tree from a tree farm to its new home. As I watched, I couldn't help but think how this tree was just like the military spouse. As DPW lifted this tree out of the ground, it hung on ever so slightly not wanting to leave its home. It had been planted there for a couple of years



Planting the tree are (I-r) Glenn Pietras (MWR), Trevor Jackman (ACS), military spouse Carol Stone, CSM Don Battle and Lt. Col. James Matheson. (Photo by Lara Clagett)

now and was comfortable there. It didn't hold on for long, however, and let go gracefully. During the ride to its new home, the tree stood proud and tall. Its leaves were blowing in the wind with anticipation of its new home. Upon arrival, our tree appeared to look on with eagerness to begin anew. As it was gently lowered into the ground, it looked beautiful and

accepted its surroundings as if it had been there forever.

Military spouses are faced with many adversities in today's world, from PCS moves to deployments that never seem to end. The Maple tree represents the military spouse by standing tall, strong and proud. While other trees might wither and die in adverse climates, the Maple tree thrives like a military spouse during adversity ... always strong and tall, yet sometimes bending slightly so as not to break. Military spouses are truly special and are the unsung heroes of the homefront.

More than 40 spouses, Soldiers and civilians came to honor the spouses of Hohenfels at the tree planting. Lt. Col. James Matheson was presented with a commemorative gold shovel by Glenn Pietras, for his continued support of the spouses of Hohenfels and the Hohenfels Community.

The next time you drive up to the PX, take a moment to look at this special tree with the white rock. Then take a moment to think about our military spouses who stand tall, strong and proud, just like our tree.



Fiesta Vacation Bible School

Mark your calendars for the upcoming Fiesta Vacation Bible School that runs August 21-25. Hohenfels Religious Support Office will sponsor the Vacation Bible School and registration forms can be found in the electronic News Briefs and submitted electronically to Kathy.elmore@us.army.mil or dropped off at any Chapel facility. POC for this event is Kathy Elmore at 09498-90-5046 or Hohenfels Religious Support Office at 466-1570.

Awards ceremony honors employees

JOB TITLE

Accounting Technician

Motor Vehicle Operator Office Support Assistant

Motor Vehicle Operato

Foreman (Quarry)

Lead Firefighter

Training Equip Mai

Material Impector

Supply Technician

Carpenter Supervisor

Motor Vehicle Operator

Transportation Assistant Public Utilizies Specialist

Transportation Assistant

Transportation Assistant

ering Technicies

Pipolitter Electrician

Heavy Mebile Equip Mechanic

Automotive Equip Repair Insy

Water & Society Installation Sup-

NAME

KELLERMEIER, Marianne

BRALLER, Christian

SCHORER, Heleun

KOLPACK, John E.

KAILER, Willbald

FREIHART, Engelbert

SPANGLES, Gerhard

DOBLER, Nothert

HAMMER, Johann WAFILLISCH, Hans

SCHENDLER, Ave.

LEECH, Torry L.

SPERL, Karl POEPPL, Wilhelm

TENZER, Siegfried

ARMER, Bornhard

FRIEDE, Wester

FEUERER, Anton BACHFISCHER, Georg

HALTEMEYER, Thomas BAIERL, Gerald

BROCK, Street

MEIER, Xaver HERRMANN, Engelbert

MERRY, Hen

KONTAKT Hohenfels

What is the Konkakt Club?

Kontakt Hohenfels is a German-American (and other International members) friendship club with fun events, recreation, education, community service and networking opportunities. It's a cultural exchange club for meeting new people and learning about another culture and language, based upon respect and tolerance without regard to differences in race, politics, religion, or ideology. Kontakt is for people of all ages who care about working to develop international cultural relations. The Club needs individual members who are willing to work and contribute ideas, skills, time, and talents while growing with the opportunities.

August

14 July 2006

VEARS

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30 30

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25 25

ORGANIZATION

DOE, TISA

DPW, B & G

DOL, TMP

MWK.

99th Signal

DPW.B&G

JMRC, Maint DPW, B & G

ZATC, IMMA

DPW, Utilities

DPW, Uslities

DPW, Utilities

IMBC: Males

USAG, Safety DPW, Usining

USAG, Cord Orp. IMRC, TACSS

DOL, Transports

DOL, PBO

DOL, Tarus

ZATC, TSC

ZATC, TSC

DPW, B & G

BMCT DPW, Unlinks

DOL_TMP

DPW, BO & I

DES. Fire 7ATC, TSC

- 2 Bowling on base at 7 p.m.
- 4 Stammtisch in Rechberg (Gartenwirtschaft Rechberger) at 7 p.m.



- 5 The Theatre Group Luisenfestspiele presenting in the Fichtelgebierge the Act of "Pippi Longstocking." For more information, please contact the Library in Kastl at 09625-920421.
- 13 Hiking tour in and around Hohenfels, beginning at 2p.m. with a pizza dinner. For registration please, contact Hildegard or the Public Affairs Liaison at 466-4292 (Civ: 09472-83-4294.)

**Movie night will be determined by movie schedule.

If you have questions about any of the events or club membership, please contact the Public Affairs Liaison at DSN 466-4294 or Civilian at 09472-83-4294.



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Congusty Combat Monneyer Analyst

LENGTH OF SERVICE AWARD CEREMONY

civilian employees were honored with a Length of Service Award for their distinguished service years which total 1,140 years. Marianne Kellermeier received her 40 year pin this year. She began

uring an awards ceremony July 14 at the Hilltop Chapel Center, 47

working in Hohenfels April 12, 1966, and has spent two of those years working for DPW and 38 years working for DOL's TISA.

On hand to acknowledge employees from their townships were: Hohenfels Mayor H. Bossle, Velburg Mayor Bernhard Kraus, Schmidmuhlen Mayor Peter Braun and County Neumarkt Landrat Willibald Gailer. The garrison commander Lt. Col. James Matheson, CSM Don Battle and JMRC OpsGroup commander Col. Thomas Vandal and the local officials handed out the awards before a luncheon for the employees. (See complete list at left). (Photo by Caio Araujo-Roper)

LATTERNSCHIL ACIER Nochest Gardener

Summer Camp fun

Story and photos by Caio Araujo-Roper, PAO Summerhire

erry Mayhew left his mark on the Hohenfels Youth Sports. Not to say that his fill-in, David Rape, hasn't being doing a wonderful job this summer, but Mayhew was the planner for the summer sport clinics which kicked off successfully this summer. This summer offers basketball, bowling, football, cheerleading, baseball, tennis, volleyball, wrestling, and soccer clinics to our youth.

The clinics that are being conducted this summer offer entertainment, exercise, and a fun learning environment to youths of 6-12 years of age. These week-long summer clinics are two or three hours long each day depending on the age group. They are designed to help youths better understand the rules and fundamentals of the sport they choose, and possibly prep them up for the upcoming seasons. This year they

decided to open their sports summer camps to SAS which increased participation.

"Summer camps are great because it shows the kids what our regular seasons are like," Program Assistant David Rape commented. When asked what he would have changed about the summer camps, he said he would have rather done registration two

months in advance in order to catch kids before they left for vacation. He also would have used more adult volunteers. Camp counselors and adult volunteers are always helpful in these clinics.

Above, summerhire Lucas Hoss coaches the soccer team. At right, a basketball camp is in full swing.





Coming back to remember

by Gerry Arbios

More than 500 former "box" residents visited the Hohenfels Training Area the weekend of June 24-25. Every four to five years since the 1980s, the former inhabitants of the villages of Lutzmannstein, Pielenhofen, and Griffenwang request permission to revisit the villages where many of them were born and grew up.

The former residents left their villages when the area was made into a training area by the German Army in 1938. Many returned to their villages after World War II, but again had to leave when the U.S. Army took over the training area in 1951.

The visit to the former town/ village of Lutzmannstein was organized by Father Eichenseer, a retired Catholic priest from the area, and took place on June 24. Approximately 350 persons, composed of older persons, the actual former residents/inhabitants of Lutzmannstein, and their children and grandchildren, proceeded from the town of Velburg in a procession, to Lutzmannstein, at which location a short church service was

conducted followed by a return procession before returning to Velburg where another church service took place followed by a meal at a local guesthouse. Mr. Krauss, the mayor of the town of Velburg, accompanied the group in the procession and visit.

The former residents come back to remember their youth and have many stories to tell. Norbert Wittl, USAG Hohenfels Public Affairs, spoke with several visitors. Wittl said, "One gentleman came all the way from Toronto, Canada, to make this visit. Mr. Anton Wild was



Above, former residents of the training area gather in front of the "castle" in Lutzmannstein which was built in 1730, and where the Krauss accompanied the group Bavarian family, the Wittlsbachers, lived. (Photo by Norbert Wittl)

the son of the blacksmith, which is Schmid in German, so his father was called Schmid Toni. He was a teen in 1945, and in 1953, his family moved to Canada."

In Canada, Wild became a teacher, built a house north of Toronto, and has two sons, one currently lives in Berlin. Anton would like to return to the village one day and paint for a couple of days.

The next day, more then 200 former residents/inhabitants visited the former town/village of Pielenhofen. The visit was by Mr. Wegele, a former resident of the village. Mostly composed of older persons, the actual former residents of Pielenhofen (to include the villages of Griffenwang, Kittensee, Schauerstein, and Grün), and their children and grandchildren, proceeded from the Reichertswinn in a procession to Pielenhofen, at which location a church service was conducted by Father Eichenseer. Neumarkt's County Commissioner (Landrat), Mr. Löhner, and Velburg's Mayor

on this day.